

JURY SUMMONS QUESTIONNAIRES**CHAPTER 22**

S.B. No. 259

AN ACT**relating to jury summons questionnaires.***Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Sections 62.0132(b) and (d), Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

(b) A written jury summons must include:

(1) a copy of the questionnaire developed under this section; or

(2) the electronic address of the court's Internet website from which the questionnaire developed under this section may be easily printed.

(d) *Except as provided by this subsection, a [A] person who has received a written jury summons [and a written jury summons questionnaire] shall complete and submit a jury summons [the] questionnaire when the person reports for jury duty. If the district and criminal district judges of a county adopt a plan for an electronic jury selection method under Section 62.011, the county may allow a person to complete and submit a jury summons questionnaire on the court's Internet website as authorized under Section 62.011(b)(5).*

SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act to Section 62.0132, Government Code, applies only to a written jury summons sent on or after the effective date of this Act. A written jury summons sent before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect immediately before the effective date of this Act, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

Passed the Senate on March 28, 2017: Yeas 31, Nays 0; passed the House on May 4, 2017: Yeas 141, Nays 1, two present not voting.

Approved May 18, 2017.

Effective September 1, 2017.

**PROCEDURE FOR THE APPROVAL OF RULES ADOPTED BY
THE COMPTROLLER THE APPRAISAL OF QUALIFIED
OPEN-SPACE LAND AND QUALIFIED TIMBER LAND FOR AD
VALOREM TAX PURPOSES**

CHAPTER 23

S.B. No. 594

AN ACT**relating to the procedure for the approval of rules adopted by the comptroller relating to the appraisal of qualified open-space land and qualified timber land for ad valorem tax purposes.***Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Section 23.52(d), Tax Code, is amended to read as follows:

(d) The comptroller by rule shall develop and distribute to each appraisal office appraisal manuals setting forth this method of appraising qualified open-space land, and each appraisal office shall use the appraisal manuals in appraising qualified open-space land. The comptroller by rule shall develop and the appraisal office shall enforce procedures to verify that land meets the conditions contained in Subdivision (1) of Sec-

tion 23.51 [of this code]. The rules, before taking effect, must be approved by *the comptroller with the review and counsel of the Department of Agriculture* [a majority vote of a committee comprised of the following officials or their designees: the governor, the comptroller, the attorney general, the agriculture commissioner, and the Commissioner of the General Land Office].

SECTION 2. Section 23.73(b), Tax Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) The comptroller by rule shall develop and distribute to each appraisal office appraisal manuals setting forth this method of appraising qualified timber land, and each appraisal office shall use the appraisal manuals in appraising qualified timber land. The comptroller by rule shall develop and the appraisal office shall enforce procedures to verify that land meets the conditions contained in Section 23.72 [of this code]. The rules, before taking effect, must be approved by *the comptroller with the review and counsel of the Texas A&M Forest Service* [majority vote of a committee comprised of the following officials or their designees: the governor, the comptroller, the attorney general, the agriculture commissioner, and the Commissioner of the General Land Office].

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect January 1, 2018.

Passed the Senate on March 27, 2017: Yeas 31, Nays 0; passed the House on May 4, 2017: Yeas 143, Nays 0, two present not voting.

Approved May 18, 2017.

Effective January 1, 2018.

ABOLISHMENT OF THE STATE COUNCIL ON COMPETITIVE GOVERNMENT AND THE TRANSFER OF ITS FUNCTIONS TO THE COMPTROLLER

CHAPTER 24

S.B. No. 706

AN ACT

relating to the abolishment of the State Council on Competitive Government and the transfer of its functions to the comptroller.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 662.0071(a), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A state agency shall accept the balance of compensatory time accrued under Section 662.007 by a state employee who transfers to that agency from another state agency if the employee transfers as a direct result of:

[(1)] the legislature's transfer of legal authority or duties from the agency that formerly employed the employee to the agency that currently employs the employee;
or

[(2)] a requirement of the State Council on Competitive Government for the agency that formerly employed the employee to bid a commercially available service that the agency previously performed].

SECTION 2. Sections 2054.131(b) and (d), Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

(b) If the *department* [State Council on Competitive Government] and the Legislative Budget Board each determine that a cost savings may be realized through a private vendor selected under this section, the *department* [State Council on Competitive Government] may implement a project that establishes a common electronic infrastructure through which each state agency, including any retirement system created by statute or by the constitution, shall:

(1) require its work site benefits plan participants to electronically: